

**REMARKS**

Upon further review of the Amendment filed May 17, 2004, Applicants are further amending claim 9 to set forth the "wherein" clause (defining the amount of the iron powder attached to an outer surface of the oxygen-absorbing package, as set forth in previously considered claim 17) in the sub-paragraph reciting packaging of the oxygen-absorbing composition, rather than as part of the sub-paragraph reciting producing of the oxygen-absorbing composition. Noting that the package is not yet produced in the sub-paragraph reciting producing the oxygen-absorbing composition, clearly the "wherein" clause should be positioned as part of (b) and not as part of (a), in claim 9, such that the present amendment of claim 9 is clearly proper.

Noting indication of allowable subject matter of, inter alia, claim 17, in the Office Action mailed December 15, 2003, it is respectfully submitted that upon entry of the present amendment and of the amendments in the Amendment filed May 17, 2004, all of the claims remaining in the application should be allowed. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all claims remaining in the application, and passing of the above-identified application to issue in due course, are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP

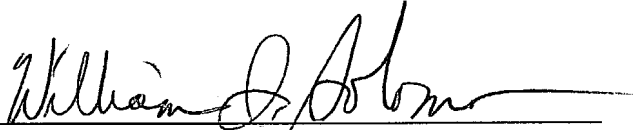
Application No.: 09/729,777

Docket No.: 396.39350X00

Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 396.39350X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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